

REPORT OF NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 8th April 1893.

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URITA PAPERS.

Nil.

ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	360	1st April 1893.
2	"Grāmvasī" ...	Ramkristopur, Howrah	1,000	
3	"Kaliyuga" ...	Calcutta ...	...
4	"Kasipur Nivāsi" ...	Kasipur, Barisāl ...	300	27th March 1893.
5	"Navamihir" ...	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	
6	"Sadar-o-Mufasssal" ...	Tahirpur, Rajshahi ...	650	
7	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	755	
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>				
8	"Hitakari" ...	Tangail Mymensingh	800	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Bangavāsi" ...	Calcutta ...	20,000	1st April 1893.
10	"Banganivāsi" ...	Ditto ...	8,000	31st March 1893.
11	"Burdwān Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	320	28th ditto.
12	"Chāruvārtā" ...	Sherpur, Mymensingh	300	27th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Dacca ...	5,000	2nd April 1893.
14	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,050	31st March 1893.
15	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	212	
16	"Hitavādī" ...	Calcutta ...	3,000	30th ditto.
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	...
18	"Prakriti" ...	Calcutta ...	...	1st April 1893.
19	"Pratikār" ...	Berhampore ...	611	31st March 1893.
20	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakinia, Rangpur ...	170	
21	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	800-1,000	29th ditto.
22	"Samāj-o-Sāhitya" ...	Garibpore, Nadia ...	1,000	2nd April 1893.
23	"Samaya" ...	Calcutta ...	3,000	31st March 1893.
24	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	4,000	1st April 1893.
25	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	...	17th and 24th March 1893.
26	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	(300-400)	1st April 1893.
27	"Som Prakāsh" ...	Calcutta ...	800	3rd ditto.
28	"Srimanta Sadagar" ...	Ditto ...	...
29	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	3,600	31st March 1893.
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā" ...	Calcutta ...	500	30th March and 3rd to 5th April 1893.
31	"Bengal Exchange Gazette" ...	Ditto ...	...
32	"Dainik-o-Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Ditto ...	1,500	2nd to 6th April 1893.
33	"Samvād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto ...	1,435	3rd to 5th ditto.
34	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	300	31st March, 1st and 3rd to 6th April 1893.
35	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	30th and 31st March, and 1st and 3rd to 6th April 1893.

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ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500-600	3rd April 1893.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
37	"Darjeeling Mission ke Māsik Samāchār Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	400	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Aryāvarta" ...	Dinapore ...	750	29th March 1893.
39	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore ...	500	
40	"Bhārat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	
41	"Champanā Chandrika" ...	Bettiah ...	350	
42	"Desī Vyāpārī" ...	Calcutta ...	.....
43	"Hindī Bangavāsī" ...	Ditto ...	5,000	3rd April 1893.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipore ...	750	23th March 1893.
45	"Anis" ...	Patna ...	.....
46	"Calcutta Punch" ...	Calcutta ...	.....
47	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto ...	300	3rd April 1893.
48	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto ...	410	20th March 1893.
49	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	.....
50	"Reis-ul-Akhbar-i-Murshidabad" ...	Murshidabad ...	150	
51	"Setare Hind" ...	Arrah ...	.....
52	"Shokh" ...	Monghyr ...	100	
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
53	"Asha" ...	Cuttack ...	80	
54	"Echo" ...	Ditto ...	.....
55	"Pradīp" ...	Ditto ...	.....
56	"Samyabadi" ...	Ditto ...	.....
57	"Taraka and Subhavartā" ...	Ditto ...	.....
58	"Utkalprabhā" ...	Baripada ...	250	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
59	"Dipaka" ...	Cuttack ...	.....
60	"Samvad Vāhika" ...	Balasore ...	225	
61	"Uriya and Navasamvād" ...	Ditto ...	420	
62	"Utkal Dīpikā" ...	Cuttack ...	400	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
63	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	480	
64	"Silchar" ...	Silchar ...	250	



I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Banganivasi*, of the 31st March, writes as follows:—

The British Government will not rest satisfied until it has robbed the hill tribes who dwell on the North-Western frontier of India of both their freedom and their country. Punitive expeditions against the frontier tribes. Indeed, it appears from the present attitude of Government to these tribes that it will not hesitate even to utterly extirpate such of them as may refuse to be bound to it in chains of friendship or of subjection. While the English characterise the natives of Burma who fight for their independence as dacoits, and kill them like cats and dogs on the plea of suppressing dacoity, their own predatory excursions on the North-Western frontier of India are called either pacifying expeditions, or expeditions undertaken for the maintenance of the glory of Great Britain. There will be no end of such expeditions against the Black Mountaineers, the Akazais, the Hassanzais, the Miranzais and the Bonerwals, and there will be consequently no limit to the taxation of India. All the return the people of this country get for their money spent on these expeditions is to hear from time to time that British troops have gained a victory over some one of these hill tribes. The other day some two hundred and fifty savages attacked Chilas, and it is reported that they have been destroyed. This news may give delight to soldiers, but it will please nobody else.

If a history of these petty expeditions should ever come to be written, it would be difficult to say how far the record would redound to the glory of the British Government. It is contended by some people that these expeditions will enable Government to fix a definite boundary for India on the North-Western frontier. But though expedition after expedition has been undertaken on that frontier for the last fifteen years, and a good deal of money spent for the purpose during this period, the North-Western boundary of India remains as undefined as ever. What will Government gain by a conquest of these hilly tracts? Referring to the Chilas affair, the *Statesman* says:—"But to all for whom the sway of morality in politics has not altogether ceased, it must be difficult to imagine what talisman to charm with can possibly be conjured up out of the conditions of the fighting now going on round Chilas, where these hillmen, robbed, without the slightest provocation, of all that men hold dear are being ruthlessly shot down in their struggles to retain their freedom, while the details of the butchery are flashed all over India and descanted on in glowing terms in the press as a proof of the greatness and glory of England!" Indeed, every Englishman who has a heart blushes at the news of such butchery, and none but cruel, bloodthirsty beasts will find in it any cause for pride. The writer is pained to think that the English Government can perpetrate such butchery so frequently.

BANGANIVASI,
Mar. 31st, 1893.

2. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 5th April, refers to the statement of the *Pioneer* that instead of paying the tribute demanded by the Emperor of China in his capacity of Suzerain of Burma, the English Government will only send trifling presents to the Chinese Governor in Yunnan, and remarks that names signify nothing, and that this present will be virtually a tribute.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 5th, 1893.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Kasipur Nivasi*, of the 27th March, justifies Mr. Savage's action in ordering the chaukidars in the district of Barisal to cut their long hair, and his decision in the case of the chaukidar who brought a complaint against the police inspector Radhacharan Das. The chaukidars of the district are a worthless lot, and they wear their hair long simply to give themselves a foppish air. The Magistrate has very properly ordered them to cut their long hair. The *Sanjivani* newspaper was grossly misinformed when it severely commented on Mr. Savage's conduct in this connection.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Mar. 27th, 1893.

4. The *Sahachar*, of the 29th March, has the following:—

Lord Kimberley and appointments in the Indian Police.

Mr. Dadabhai Naoraji has proposed to introduce a Bill in Parliament for the holding of the Civil Service examination simultaneously in India and

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 29th, 1893.

England. What the result of the Bill will be it does not require the powers of a prophet to tell. It is all the same to India whether the Ministry in England is Liberal or Conservative. The Civil Service Regulations passed under the Salisbury Ministry show that it is not the wish of the English Government that the natives of India should largely enter the Civil Service. Mr. Gladstone will not reverse the policy of his predecessor in this respect. Nay, under his own Ministry, Lord Kimberley contemplates doing a strange thing. He has invited candidates to compete for an examination to be held for the purpose of selecting men for the Assistant Superintendships of the Indian Police. Now, the post of Assistant Superintendent is unnecessary, and public interests demand its abolition. These posts are now held by the worthless sons and relations of big Indian officials, and though to save appearances a few of them have been given to Native Police Inspectors, no Indian who was not already in the Police Service has ever been appointed to any one of them. None of these European Assistant Superintendents has yet given any proof of detective ability, nor is it likely that they will ever give any such proof. They are wanting in the knowledge of the country and its people. And there is nothing to show that Lord Kimberley's men will prove better. Under the circumstances, it will be an act of pure nepotism on the part of His Lordship to make the proposed appointments. But if there must be nepotism, let such Europeans be appointed to the post as have some knowledge of the country. The country is advancing; the people are asking questions on all matters, and it is the duty of the authorities to act with care and consideration.

SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 31st, 1893.

5. A correspondent of the *Sudhakar*, of the 31st March, says that lately one night when sitting on the Calcutta Maidan, he observed two European soldiers approach a woman who was passing by with a basket on her head. One of them then took down the basket and dragged the woman to a secluded spot under a tree. The writer reported the matter to a constable on duty, but the latter dismissed him by saying that the occurrence had taken place beyond his jurisdiction and he could not interfere.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 4th, 1893.

6. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 4th April, complains of the want of proper police surveillance over certain *gundas* who have their rendezvous at 24, Nimtolla Street, and who are a pest to that quarter of the town.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 29th, 1893.

7. A correspondent of the *Sahachar*, of the 29th March, says that Babu Akshaya Kumar Mitra, Munsif of Burdwan, is in the habit of holding his cutchery so late as 9 or 9-30 P.M. This causes serious inconvenience to suitors and witnesses in his court. There are two more Munsifs at Burdwan, and they do not hold their court later than 5 or 5-30 P.M. Again, the number of cases on Akshaya Babu's file is smaller than that on the files of his colleagues, and yet he works so late to the injury of his own health and the inconvenience of the suitors. Let him labour as hard as he may, but he will never be able to secure any special favour of Government. On the other hand, if in consequence of overwork the number of cases on his file goes on decreasing, it may induce Government to take away one of the three Munsifs from Burdwan.

SAHACHAR.

8. The same paper says that the public will no doubt be glad to learn that the Jury Notification has been withdrawn, and expresses a hope that all Bengal will heartily bless the members of the Jury Commission.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 30th, 1893.

9. The *Hitavadi*, of the 30th March, has the following:—
The news that the Jury Notification has been withdrawn will give rise to feelings of inexpressible joy, satisfaction and security from one end of India to another. The withdrawal of the notification is a proof, furnished after a long time, that Englishmen attach more importance to justice than to prestige. And whatever the narrow-minded Anglo-Indians may think of this step, there can be no doubt that it has increased the prestige of the British Raj. A summary of the Jury Commission's report was telegraphed to the Secretary of

State, and it need not be told that the authorities here acted in this matter under His Lordship's orders. This much, at any rate, is certain that but for pressure from above they would not have withdrawn the notification so easily. For if they had been disposed to withdraw the notification, they would have done so before this in response to the humble prayers of the people. Will the big folks at the head of the Government now abandon their false notion that the prestige of the European officials of Government is of greater value than the rights, interests, and lives of crores of Indians?

The Lieutenant-Governor says that he would have himself taken action in this direction if he had not already referred the question to the Government of India and acted under the authority of that Government in issuing the notification. Is it then to be supposed that His Honour had nothing to do with the issue of the notification, or that he is simply trying to look innocent by shifting the responsibility on to others' shoulders? The Members of the Jury Commission are thanked by the writer for the impartial manner in which they have done their duty. The Secretary of State and the English press are also thanked for the help which they have rendered to the people in regaining their lost right.

10. The *Samay*, of the 30th March, announces with joy the news that the Lieutenant-Governor has, in accordance with the recommendation of the Jury Commission, withdrawn his recent jury order. His Honour has in this

The withdrawal of the Jury Notification.

way expiated for his recklessness in issuing that order. Through an error of judgment he deprived the people of a right which they had enjoyed for 30 years past. But as they have regained that right, the writer would forget the past, and thank the Members of the Jury Commission and those Europeans who have helped them in the matter.

11. The *Bangavasi*, of the 31st March, writes as follows:—

The withdrawal of the Jury Notification.

On the recommendation of the Jury Commission the Lieutenant-Governor has withdrawn his Jury Notification. Those worthless people who think

that by this act Government has lost its prestige, ought to know that they are quite mistaken, and that its present action is a striking proof of its magnanimity. Particular officers of Government may be narrow-minded men, but the withdrawal of the Jury Notification has proved beyond a doubt that Government itself holds the most liberal views.

The whole province is jubilant over the action of Sir Charles Elliott in withdrawing the notification. The people are rejoicing, not because they have got any new right or privilege, but because they have come to see at last that their Government can be made by constitutional agitation to give up its *aid* and grant their prayers, and also because the arbitrary and unjustifiable jury order has been revoked.

The Lieutenant-Governor might have taken this opportunity to give further proof of his magnanimity by extending the jury system. But unfortunate as the people of this country are, they must not expect so much at one time. The inhabitants of the non-jury districts in Bengal are in no way inferior to those of the jury districts either in education or in ability. And Government would have done a very graceful act if it had extended the jury system to all districts and to all classes of offences. It is hoped Government will soon see its way to make such an extension.

The jury agitation has taught many things to the people of this country. It has taught them that a calm and constitutional agitation of their grievances is sure to attract the notice of the British public, and that they have suffered so long only because they did not know how to agitate in that way. It has taught Sir Charles Elliott the difference between the North-Western Provinces, where he spent the best part of his life, and the Lower Provinces. It has taught the Viceroy how indiscreet it is on his part to give his assent to any measure without due consideration. It has taught the *huzoors* that the days of *zubberdustism* are gone. It has taught the native editors the inadvisability of giving currency to any and every piece of news they can pick up without waiting to ascertain its correctness. Indeed, conduct, like that of the *Indian Mirror* in connection with the jury affair is calculated to do serious harm.

SAMAY,
Mar. 30th, 1893.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 31st, 1893.

The writer thanks the Lieutenant-Governor for withdrawing the jury notification, and it matters little whether His Honour acted spontaneously or under compulsion in the matter.

SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 31st, 1893.

12. The *Sudhakar*, of the 31st March, considers it a piece of great good fortune for the people of Bengal that their rulers have listened to their prayers in regard to the jury question, and says that the Lieutenant-Governor has earned their gratitude by the withdrawal of the Jury Notification.

PRATIKAR,
Mar. 31st, 1893

13. The *Pratikar*, of the 31st March, says that the Lieutenant-Governor would have acted wisely if he had withdrawn the Jury Notification long before this. It has been, however, very proper on His Honour's part to have withdrawn it on his own motion and without waiting for the order of the Secretary of State to do so. The conduct of the Lieutenant-Governor and of his advisers is, indeed, deserving of the highest praise. The people are also blessing the Members of the Commission for the upright and independent manner in which they have pointed out the mistake of Government in this connection.

SULABH DAINIK,
Mar. 31st, 1893.

14. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 31st March, has the following:—

Why did not your Honour save the people all this harassment and mortification, by giving up your vain *and*? You have now withdrawn your own notification, and nobody blames you for it. Everybody is rejoicing at your conduct. Nobody twits you with the question of prestige. Your Honour and the Members of the Jury Commission are to be heartily thanked for your action in withdrawing the notification. Mr. Justice Prinsep is to be specially thanked for changing his mind in regard to the efficacy of jury trial. As for Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter and Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore, their names will be indelibly written on their countrymen's hearts.

BANGAVASI
April 1st, 1893.

15. The *Bangavasi*, of the 1st April, writes as follows:—

The Jury Notification has been withdrawn. But no one should think that this is a defeat on the part of Government. Government has rather given proof of its magnanimity by this action, and it is certainly not one which the people should regard as a triumph achieved by themselves. They can take little credit to themselves for the withdrawal. If they do, they will be guilty of ingratitude. They ought to be grateful to their English rulers for the generosity they have shown in this jury affair. The Lieutenant-Governor has shown true magnanimity by admitting his error in this matter.

SANJIVANI
April 1st, 1893.

16. The *Sanjivani*, of the 1st April, has the following in an article headed "Happy news—the Jury Notification has been rescinded:—"

It is not often that a subject people is given such an occasion for joy. The notification which was issued by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 20th October last has been withdrawn in less than five months. This shows what even a subject people can achieve by means of agitation conducted with all their earnestness and all the resources they can command.

The action of Sir Charles Elliott in issuing the notification struck the natives with surprise and evoked a powerful opposition. It also met with the strongest disapprobation of Englishmen. The Secretary of State at first ordered a withdrawal of the notification; but with a view of upholding the prestige of the authorities here, subsequently agreed to the appointment of a Commission. The Commission which was thus appointed to consider the jury question advised the maintenance of the jury system, and the Jury Notification has accordingly been revoked. The hurry with which Government has withdrawn the notification after the Commission had sent in its report has been really surprising. No one could believe before that the authorities were able to act with such despatch.

So the Jury Notification is dead and gone, and the Lieutenant-Governor's honour has been saved by the flimsiest protection afforded by the appointment of the Commission. The Lieutenant-Governor had contended that in cases of murder, rioting, and forgery, jury trial led to an absolute failure of justice. The Commission's report on this point is of the nature of a condemnation of

Sir Charles Elliott's opinion, and is not very complimentary to His Honour. If His Honour had not been swayed by the opinions of other people and had calmly read through all the papers connected with jury trial, he would have surely come to the same conclusion as the Commission have done, and would thus have been spared the indignity involved in a withdrawal of orders passed by him in this matter. The Commission have clearly shown that the Lieutenant-Governor's charge against the Native Jury, that they are swayed by caste prejudices in the trial of murder cases, and show a general reluctance to convict in such cases, is without the slightest foundation. The Commission have met Sir Charles Elliott's objection to jury trial in riot cases by the remark that the escape of a large percentage of persons sent up in such cases is not due to any fault in the Judge or the jury, but to the action of the police in sending up both guilty and innocent persons indiscriminately. The Commission have made a thorough examination of the question referred to them, and proved the untenableness of Sir Charles Elliott's contentions. For this independent conduct they deserve the thanks of the whole province.

17. The *Sarasvat Patra*, of the 1st April, says that as suggested by Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter and Sir Jotendra

SARASVAT PATRA,
April 1st, 1893.

Jury trial in riot cases. Mohan Tagore an agitation ought to be set on foot for bringing about an extension of the jury system. The authorities wanted to abolish jury trial in riot cases, and entertained the hope that trial with assessors would, by securing convictions in a very large percentage of such cases, put an effectual check upon the occurrence of riots which are only too frequent in this province. But this was a sad mistake, for whatever remedial measures may be adopted by Government, riots in an agricultural country like Bengal will not cease until the zamindars cease to be avaricious and to take a pride in robbing others of their landed property by force or by fraud.

18. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 1st April, says that two wicked men in the Bankura town, named, respectively, Hriday Singh and Umesh Majumdar, are now making profit by giving information of surreptitious distillation of liquor against innocent people. These men go to a grocer's shop and give out that they are coolie-recruiters and that they expect a number of coolies in a day or two; and as coolies require wine they ask the grocer's permission to distil liquor for the use of the coolies. The arrangements for distillation once completed, these men disappear, and the police come all on a sudden and apprehend the surprised grocer, who is not naturally believed in spite of all his protestations of innocence. And the poor man is sent to jail. The evidence of these men and of the police is considered sufficient for purposes of a conviction. Magistrates should bear in mind the diabolical tricks of these wicked informers.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 1st, 1893.

19. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 2nd April, is glad that the people have regained their jury right. But its satisfaction will not be complete so long as the defects of the jury system are not removed.

DACCA PRAKASH
April 2nd, 1893.

The withdrawal of the Jury Notification.

The withdrawal of the Jury Notification.

20. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 2nd April, has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 2nd, 1893.

The jury difficulty is at an end, and the removal of the difficulty has been an act of true statesmanship on the part of the rulers. A ruler is called *Raja* because it is his duty to satisfy his subjects (*Rájá prakritiranjánát*). And by withdrawing the Jury Notification and by that means satisfying the people, the English have acted as befits their position as rulers. That they are so loved by the people of this country is simply because they are so anxious to please their subjects. The Lieutenant-Governor thought that in murder cases jury trial stood in the way of the punishment of the offenders, and so he directed a discontinuance of that form of trial in those cases. His Honour's intention was good, and his error lay in selecting the means for carrying out that intention. Both the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor were in the wrong, and the people were sorry and afraid to see them go wrong. But the authorities have at last seen their error, and the jury difficulty is over. In England all public measures, however insignificant, must be settled by a previous discussion in Parliament. But here the opinion of the people is consulted only when any new law is passed. And so long as this

anomaly lasts, so long will Government in this country fall into error from time to time. In the present matter Government committed a great mistake in issuing the Jury Notification without consulting the people for whose benefit jury trial had been introduced.

When the people appealed to the Secretary of State against the notification, the Viceroy and his councillors also addressed a letter to His Lordship wherein they tried to justify their conduct by a variety of plausible arguments. It was certainly very improper on their part to go to such lengths, for it is here that their *aid* reached its climax. The Lieutenant-Governor who brought about the jury difficulty was also the first to propose the appointment of a Commission. When His Honour talked of a Commission, he no doubt perceived his error. Probably the Viceroy too realised his error at that time. And it would have been better if His Excellency had at that time either himself cancelled the jury order or allowed the Lieutenant-Governor to cancel it. If this had been done, it would have shown greater magnanimity in the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor, and the people would have been more satisfied than they are now.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 3rd, 1893.

21. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 3rd April, says that the Sub-divisional Officer of Narainganj refused to entertain a case against one Mr. Palmer, who had severely beaten a native school-boy for no fault whatever. An appeal was made against the Sub-divisional Officer's order to the Judge of Dacca. But he rejected the appeal with the remark that the boy's father should not have proceeded against Mr. Palmer for such a trifling injury. But if an English boy had been beaten by a native, and if the boy's father had brought a case against the latter, could either the Sub-divisional Officer or the Judge have refused to entertain the complaint?

SOM PRAKASH,
April 3rd, 1893.

22. The *Som Prakash*, of the 3rd April, has no doubt that in withdrawing the Jury Notification both the Government of India and the Government of Bengal have acted with great magnanimity. By acting as they have done with impartiality and with due regard to their prestige, they have succeeded in attracting to themselves the esteem and regard of the whole population.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 5th, 1893.

23. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 5th April, says that as cows instead of bullocks are made use of in carrying on agricultural operations in Chota Nagpur and the Bagirhat sub-division of the Noakhali district, those animals should be exempted from seizure in execution of decrees in those parts of the country.

(c)—Jails.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR,
CHANDRIKA,
April 5th, 1893.

24. The *Dainik o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 5th April, cannot approve of the proposal that prisoners sentenced to a long term of imprisonment should not be made to do full work till two months have elapsed since their admission into prison, while short-term prisoners should be made to do full work at once. Those who are sentenced to short terms of imprisonment are men who are guilty of only petty offences. It is hardly fair that such men should receive less consideration than prisoners guilty of more serious offences. It is not also fair that while the Military Surgeon in charge of a jail should have the privilege of outside practice, the native Doctor under him will not have that privilege. If either of these officers is to be denied the benefit of private practice, it is certainly the highly paid Military Surgeon and not his poorly paid native subordinate. People say that the native Doctor is being prevented from enjoying private practice lest his practice should interfere with that of the Military Surgeon. Government should give people no occasion to make such a remark. It is not also clear why none but Military Surgeons should be appointed as Superintendents of Central Jails, when one who is not a Military Surgeon can be appointed even to such a high post as that of Inspector-General of Jails.

(d)—Education.

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 29th, 1893

Jurisdiction of Inspectors of
Schools.

25. The *Sahachar*, of the 29th March, has the following:—

One of Dr. Martin's two proposals relating to the readjustment of Inspection circles has received the sanction of Government. Inspection work in Bengal

will now be entrusted to three Chief Inspectors, two of whom will be Europeans and one a native. As the Secretary of State once pointed out the necessity of largely appointing natives as Inspectors of Schools, there have been for a long time three such Inspectors in Bengal. But under the new arrangements it will have only one. It is therefore clear that under Sir Charles Elliott educated natives are gradually losing their prospects of advancement. Babu Beni Madhab De, for instance, is an able inspecting officer, but he has no prospect of advancement under the new arrangements. These arrangements are open to objection on other grounds also. The Inspector of the Presidency Circle will now have to inspect the district of Tippera, which is some three to four days' journey from Calcutta. The Inspector of the Rajshahi Circle will have to inspect such distant places as Mymensingh and Bankura. This cannot fail to lead to much waste of time and public money. It is therefore hoped that Government will carefully consider the matter.

26. The *Samay*, of the 30th March, is glad that its suggestion that the candidates appearing at the final examination of the Normal Schools should be required to secure at least one-third of the marks in Bengali, Sanskrit and

Mathematics for the purpose of passing that examination, has been accepted by Government. While making the above suggestion, the writer also pointed out the necessity of reducing the number of subjects prescribed for that examination. As it is, the lads who compete for that examination find the greatest difficulty in mastering the large number of books which they are required to read. It is therefore desirable that the number of text books for that examination should be reduced.

27. Referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal not to allow dishonest students to prosecute their studies in Government institutions or to appear at University examinations, the *Sanjivani*, of the 1st April, says that it is undoubtedly good to try to check dishonesty; but will it be proper to make such a harsh rule for punishing only dishonest schoolboys in a country where dishonest rulers, dishonest judges, dishonest professors, and dishonest teachers receive encouragement? Dishonesty ought to be punished in all cases, and it would be extremely unjust to make any distinction in the matter of punishment between offenders on the ground of their rank and position in society.

28. Referring to the proposal to establish a technical school in Burdwan, the *Bangavasi*, of the 1st April, says that a technical school in this country has now come to mean an institution for teaching the work of the blacksmith, the potter and the carpenter. In the school to be established at Burdwan, it is, however, proposed to teach the pupils practical drawing and surveying in addition to the above subjects. The writer cannot understand what benefit such an institution will confer on the country. It will only rob one section of the community of its bread to give it to another. The only gain to the country by the establishment of such institutions is that they serve to induce respectable people to betake themselves to what must be low and menial occupations.

29. The *Som Prakash*, of the 3rd April, says that by not acceding to the request of the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint a permanent Board of Examiners, the Syndicate of the Calcutta University has acted with great wisdom. It is to be regretted that His Honour should interfere in such matters without that careful consideration which they deserve. If he had possessed the power, he would not have hesitated in the least to give effect to his suggestion in that highhanded fashion in which he issued the Jury Notification. The writer heartily thanks Babu Ashutosh Mukerji for his careful note on the subject of the appointment of examiners.

30. The *Dainik o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 3rd April, cannot approve of the rule that a candidate who is found to adopt any unfair means with the view of passing any University examination shall not be employed in any office with which Government is directly or indirectly connected. The Lieutenant-Governor will probably next request the Trades' Association and the Chamber of Commerce to refuse to

SAMAY,
Mar. 30th, 1893.

SANJIVANI
April 1st, 1893.

BANGAVASI
April 1st, 1893.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 3rd, 1893.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR,
CHANDRIKA,
April 3rd, 1893.

admit any such candidates into mercantile offices. Would it not be better to send such candidates to the Andamans instead of putting them to so much trouble and difficulty? It is wrong to subject one to life-long punishment for a youthful delinquency.

DAINI K-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 4th, 1893.

31. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 4th April, refers to the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal to introduce a system of inspection of the students' messes in Calcutta, and makes the following remarks:—

The motive which has led the Lieutenant-Governor to make the proposal is no doubt good; but then the question arises what will be done in the case of students who will refuse to bring themselves under official inspection? Probably the Lieutenant-Governor will try to punish such students by closing the door of University education against them and such like means. The writer entertains these fears simply because he knows what sort of a man Sir Charles Elliott is. But then His Honour is going away, and there is hope that Sir Antony MacDonnell will not consent to do any such thing. There is hope also in the consideration that the Chancellor will not consent to any unreasonable proposal of the Lieutenant-Governor. His Excellency ought not to encourage Sir Charles' meddlesomeness. He has already done much mischief by that habit of his.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 5th, 1893.

32. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 5th April, says that people's unwillingness to send up their boys to Middle Scholarship Examinations is due to the fact that the standard of those examinations is too high for tender boys of ten or twelve years of age. They are required to study too many subjects, and this is injurious rather than beneficial to them.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SULABH DAINIK,
Mar. 31st, 1893.

33. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 31st March, complains of the serious inconvenience caused to the foot-passengers by the daily congregation of mehters from 10 to 11 A.M. before the night-soil depôt in Nimtolla Street, Calcutta, and says that, as the road is used by a very large number of people who daily bathe in the river, it is absolutely necessary that the Commissioners should see their way to removing the depôt to some other part of the town.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 2nd, 1893.

34. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 2nd April, says that the Commissioners of the Dacca Municipality are very irregular in their attendance at municipal meetings. Some of them attend after long intervals simply to prevent their names being struck off the list of Commissioners. As three-fourths of the rate-payers of the municipality are ignorant and low-caste men, the return of better men as Commissioners is out of the question. Supervision over the work done by municipal employés has become very lax and there is no one to prevent them from committing oppression on the poor. The Commissioners sign papers brought to them with their eyes shut. Things were a little better under the Chairmanship of the Magistrate, for then the Commissioners did not dare to be so irregular in their attendance as now.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 3rd, 1893.

35. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 3rd April, says that people who hire hackney carriages often make them go 5 or 6 miles at a stretch for the fixed fare of 12 annas an hour. This is very hard upon the drivers of such carriages. The Calcutta Police Court, however, lends its countenance to this practice on the ground that it is sanctioned by the law. But it cannot certainly be the intention of the law that the poor drivers should be so hardly treated.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 4th, 1893.

The collection of rates by the Calcutta Municipality.

36. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 4th April, has the following:—

It seems that the Calcutta Municipality is going to have something like a sunset law for the purpose of realizing its rates. The system of collecting those rates is becoming more and more rigorous every day. A man failing to pay the sum due from him as tax after the service of the second notice will have to pay an additional 4 annas as the cost of issuing the notice. This additional fee may indeed be remitted in certain cases. But it seems that this

favour will be entirely done away with after a time and all taxes have to be paid on the service of the first notice. Self-Government bids fair to be an engine of oppression.

The Magistrate of Howrah and a decision of the High Court.

37. The same paper has the following :—

The soundness of the recent decision of a Divisional Bench of the High Court that all prosecutions by mufassal municipalities must be instituted by the Chairman of those Municipalities or under their written orders is admitted by everybody. It is but proper that only the highest officer of a municipality should institute prosecutions; otherwise they may become a source of great oppression. The Magistrate of Howrah, however, is not satisfied with this decision, and has been impudent enough to suggest to the Lieutenant-Governor to get it quashed by means of a Full Bench. In his letter on the subject, he has even dared to cast reflections on the High Court. This much, however, is certain that His Honour will not any more pay heed to such requests. Wicked Magistrates of this type ought to be punished. Civilian impudence has apparently reached its climax.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 4th, 1893.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

38. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini*, of the 17th March, says that on the afternoon of the 11th March last a meeting, attended by about three to four thousand zamindars, talukdars, and raiyats of Chittagong, was held on the local parade ground, and it was resolved that a memorial should be submitted to Government complaining of the actions of the Survey Officers in paying no heed to the boundary marks of the survey made in the year 1200 Maghi, and pointing out the inconvenience that will be caused to all parties, not excepting Government itself, by such ignoring of the said boundary marks in the present survey.

SANSODHINI,
Mar. 17th, 1893.

39. The *Sudhakar*, of the 31st March, says that the raiyats of Chandpur, a village belonging to the zamindars of Ulania in the Barisal district, have been for the last twelve years in open hostility with the latter, and have recently induced the raiyats of Hanni, a village near Ulania, to join them. These disaffected men are in various ways oppressing other raiyats who have not made common cause with them, and are raising funds by force for the purpose of conducting cases instituted against them by their zamindars.

SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 31st, 1893.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

40. The *Bangavasi*, of the 1st April, says that the railways having attracted a large portion of the river-borne traffic of the country, neither the people nor the authorities now take any care of the rivers, which are accordingly fast silting up. This state of things should not be allowed to go on specially when tolls are being still collected on some of the rivers. If Government continues to levy tolls on the river-borne traffic, and yet refuses to devote the proceeds of the tolls to their legitimate object, namely, keeping the rivers in a navigable condition, then it should, in justice, levy a toll on all rail-borne and in fact all land-borne traffic too.

BANGAVASI,
April 1st, 1893.

41. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 4th April, says that the third and intermediate class carriages on the Eastern Bengal State Railway being similar in appearance, illiterate people having third class tickets often travel by mistake in the intermediate class carriage, and only find out their mistake at some principal station, where they are compelled to pay excess fare. The intermediate class passengers, too, are greatly inconvenienced by the overcrowding of their carriages in this way.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 4th, 1893.

(h)—General.

42. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 28th March, says that Mr. Barrow, Magistrate of Bankura, has endeared himself to the people under his charge. His predecessor, Mr. Sharp, was very unpopular. He could not bear the

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Mar. 28th 1893.

noise made by *sankirtan* parties, and in one instance stopped a *sankirtan* party led by several respectable people of Bankura. Mr. Barrow's conduct in this respect contrasts strongly with that of Mr. Sharp. On the day of the celebration of the last *Dol Purnima*, Mr. Barrow was returning to the town from his mufassal tour, and his carriage was stopped by a *sankirtan* party. Instead of stopping the party or making way through it, he alighted from his carriage and walked on foot behind the processionists. Some one even threw coloured water upon him, but he took the thing quite good naturedly. This geniality is the secret of Mr. Barrow's popularity. He is a sort of god among the civilians.

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 29th, 1893.

43. The *Sahachar*, of the 29th March, refers to Sir Charles Elliott's approaching departure on leave, and makes the following remarks:—

The writer is not glad but sorry at the news of His Honour's approaching departure on leave, and hopes that when he returns with renewed health he will try to keep the people satisfied. They do not know His Honour, who say that he is a bad man. He is industrious and a good worker, and his only fault is that he is a little headstrong.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 30th, 1893.

Sir Charles Elliott.

44. The *Hitavadi*, of the 30th March, has the following:—

It is now definitely settled that the Lieutenant-Governor will go away on leave for six months from the 1st June next. It will be well for the country if His Honour does not return from his leave.

SAMAY,
Mar. 30th, 1893.

45. The *Samay*, of the 30th March, says that in Bengal the annual loss of life from snake-bite and the depredations of wild animals is on the increase. The actual number of deaths is much larger than that given in the official report on the subject, as may be inferred from the fact that the *chaukidars* in remote villages never care to report to the *thana* all cases of death. All this loss of life is due to a great extent to the operation of the Arms Act.

The Arms Act and deaths from snake-bite.

BANGAVASI,
April 1st, 1893.

46. The *Bangavasi*, of the 1st April, writes as follows:—

Sir Charles Elliott's leave.

There is very little ground for either hope or fear in the appointment of Sir A. P. MacDonnell to officiate as Lieutenant-Governor of these provinces during Sir Charles Elliott's absence on leave. So far as policy and administration are concerned, there will be little difference between a MacDonnell and an Elliott on the *musnud* of Bengal, and if there be any difference, it will not possibly be anything more than a difference in the external behaviour of the two rulers towards the people.

As Sir Charles Elliott is going on leave on medical certificate, it ought to be understood that His Honour is really ill, and not, as some people say, that he is going away because he has felt insulted by having had to withdraw the Jury Notification. To believe any such thing would be creditable neither to the sovereign nor to the subject. They must be extremely foolish people, who could originate such a rumour.

BANGAVASI.

47. The same paper says that, in the discharge of their official duties, the

The Excise Sub-Inspectors.

Excise Sub-Inspectors have frequent occasion to pay visits to the rendezvous of *badmashes*. Under such circumstances, it is necessary that Government should look to the safety of these officers by granting them sufficient police protection. The writer's notice has been drawn to many cases in which the Excise Sub-Inspectors were threatened with serious danger during their visit to the dens of *badmashes*.

SANJIVANI,
April 1st, 1893.

48. The *Sanjivani*, of the 1st April, has learnt that the Lieutenant-Governor

The Lieutenant-Governor's leave.

will shortly proceed on leave for six months on account of ill-health. If that is really the case, has it been well for His Honour to propose to spend the whole of April in ceaseless touring through the province of Bihar? He ought to avail himself of his leave at once.

The writer is, however, glad to hear that His Honour will really take leave this time. The sooner the evil star Elliott leaves the horizon of Bengal, for however short a time he may be away, the better will it be for this province. It may be that on arrival in England His Honour may in this his old age change his mind and not come back to this country again. The way in which he has

been harassing and worrying the people has made them heartily desirous of being saved from his hands.

49. The same paper says that opium and *ganja* have got their advocates in the persons of Mr. H. Mathews and Sir Charles Elliott respectively. If country-made liquor can now secure an advocate to plead its cause, the triumph of the Excise Department will be complete.

The agitation against opium and *ganja*.

SANJIVANI,
April 1st, 1893.

Administration of the Bankura district.

50. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 1st April, says that this year few accused persons have escaped punishment in Bankura, and if convictions go on at the present rate new jails will have to be built in the place, as the existing ones will hardly be sufficient for the accommodation of the fast swelling number of prisoners. Juvenile offenders are being whipped, not by way of school discipline, but in such a manner that they shall bear the marks of whipping on their persons as long as they live. The road cess department shows good income. People are being fined 20, 30, 50 and even 100 rupees for failing to submit returns. Appeals are not found to do much good. Notices for the submission of such returns are served in a most unsatisfactory fashion. Such notices are being issued in the names of many deceased persons. The cess is being assessed upon an unduly high estimate of the profits of lands. A piece of jungly land, the annual rent of which per bigha is only 2 annas, is put down as having an annual rent of 6 or 8 annas per bigha, and the result is that one-third, and in some cases even more, of the actual profits has to be paid as road cess. Again, the cess is assessed five or six years after the submission of the returns, and the arrear of the cess for these years is realised at once to the great inconvenience of land-owners. Thanks to the Road Cess Department, even lakhiraj lands have now to pay as much as revenue paying lands.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 1st, 1893.

While the officials are thus busy fining and otherwise punishing people, the district is suffering from a general scarcity of food. The labourers are leaving the district in large numbers, and the business of cooly recruitment is briskly going on.

51. A correspondent of the same paper says that two peons are not sufficient for the work to be done at the Raipur post office in the Bankura district. Many people are now being ruined by the late delivery of notices of the dates of auction sales, or of hearing of cases sent by post. The Postmaster-General is requested to sanction an additional peon for the post-office.

The Raipur post-office.

BANKURA DARPAN.

52. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 2nd April, has the following on the discussion of the budget in the Viceregal Council:—

The Budget.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR,
CHANDRIKA,
April 2nd, 1893.

During the discussion of the Budget, the Hon'ble Dr. Lethbridge and the Hon'ble Mr. Stevens referred in terms of regret to the loss and hardship caused by the unfavourable rate of exchange to the European Civil and Military officers of Government. The drift of these speeches was that Government, or in other words, the tax-payers of India, should make good that loss. It is certain that in time this loss will have to be met by the people of this country, for not even the Viceroy has given them any hope of exemption in this respect. The writer must nevertheless say, what he has said over and over again, that it will be very unjust to grant undue advantages to the European officials with money taken from the Indians—to enable those officials, in fact, to enjoy luxuries by depriving the people of their very necessities. The writer has no hope that the Home and the Army charges will be ever reduced, and if Sir Griffith Evans has any such hope, it is one that will be never realised. The Hon'ble Mr. Mackay talked of bimetallism, and pointed out the fallacy of the argument that the exchange difficulty has been favourable to the growth of India's trade and manufacture. The writer approves of this part of his speech, but strongly objects to his method of solving the exchange difficulty, by restricting the free coinage of silver and by the adoption of a gold standard for the silver currency. In his opinion the adoption of Mr. Mackay's remedies will increase the difficulty rather than decrease it. It is hoped that the Viceroy will not approve of Mr. Mackay's suggestions. One cannot help feeling

amused by the statement of the Military Member of the Council in reply to Sir Griffith Evan's criticisms, that the military expenditure has not increased to any great extent after all. The Viceroy clearly pointed out that the present gloomy condition of the Indian finances is due to the exchange difficulty. Every body sees that the agitation of the anti-opiumists will operate injuriously on the opium revenue, and the Viceroy's assurance that the increase of Government's receipts from other sources will make up for the loss of that revenue will not allay the fears of the public. The writer has no doubt that the loss of opium revenue will mean additional taxation for India.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 3rd, 1893.

The Financial Statement.

53. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 3rd April, has the following on the Financial State-

ment:—

Government is apparently afraid of a rebellion on the part of its Anglo-Indian servants in the event of no steps being taken to remove the inconvenience caused to them by the exchange difficulty, and it is this fear that has made it extremely anxious to grant them relief. No rebellion, however, is to be apprehended from an addition to the burden of taxation on the Indian people. Why then should Government hesitate to add to their burden? Those alone will triumph who can make themselves feared.

It cannot be denied that the exchange difficulty is a source of inconvenience to the Anglo-Indian officials. But it is also a fact that the poor Indians groan under the burden of taxation, and that that burden should not be made heavier by even so much as a single grain. The Anglo-Indian officials receive very large salaries in this country. The man who would not have obtained an annual salary of 1,000 rupees in England receives an annual salary of 10,000 or 12,000 rupees in India. So the European servants of Government ought not to mind the loss which they are suffering from the exchange difficulty. If those men had any respect for justice or any sympathy with the suffering Indian people, they could not find it in their hearts to propose that their loss should be made up by adding to the burden of taxation on the poor people of this country. The Viceroy and his Council too could not have approved of any such proposal, if they had possessed any sense of justice or any sympathy with the Indian people.

The writer is glad to find that the Hon'ble Fazulbhai Vishram has objected to the payment of salaries and pensions in English money to officials serving or residing in India. Government will, however, take no notice of this objection. Mr. Vishram's recommendation that Government should make this time a $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan, and that in India, is also worthy of consideration.

Sir Griffith Evans has urged that while the frequent frontier expeditions of Government do no good, they lead to considerable waste of money. The writer, however, has a suspicion that these expeditions are due more to a desire of arresting the progress of Russia than to that of quelling the turbulent frontier races. These expeditions, however, will never have the desired effect. The reason of the Lushai expedition, as well as of the Manipur expedition, is also equally clear. As it is necessary to construct a railway up to Burma, it is necessary to annex the intervening independent States, and hence these expeditions.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 4th, 1893.

Dairies in lunatic asylums.

54. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 4th April, says:—

It has been proposed to establish dairies in lunatic asylums. These dairies will be worked by the lunatics, and the products of their labour in the shape of butter, etc., will be sold to the public. In the opinion of the writer, the cow-dung in these dairies ought also to be utilised, and Government will not, it is hoped, hesitate to open a business in cow-dung cakes. Even cow-dung ought to be made a source of revenue under a ruler like Sir Charles Elliott.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 5th, 1893.

The home charges.

55. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 5th April, says that as almost all articles are now procurable in India, there is no reason why Government should import its stores from England through contractors, at a greater cost than what their purchase in India would involve. Government ought to enable natives to construct railways in India with Indian money. Why are troops trained in England for the benefit of India? Both English and Native troops may be, and as a matter of fact are,

trained in India. Why should, again, a store department be maintained in England at a great expense when the articles can be sent directly to India by the contractors? Why should, again, India be made to bear the expense of the British Consulate in Persia, in China, and at Aden? What has India to do with Somali in Africa? The office establishment of the Secretary of State is capable of considerable reduction. The Secretary of State is exercising patronage with other people's money. Such waste as has been pointed out above is, from a moral point of view, nothing less than criminal misappropriation. That the writer dwells so much on this waste of Indian money is because the present Premier is a very conscientious man at whose hands the Indians can expect justice.

56. The same paper says that it has been proposed by the Chamber of Commerce that the balance of the proceeds of the inspection-fee of boilers should be applied to the formation of a fund by Government, that the interest of the money should be spent in the inspection of boilers, and that the inspection fee should be reduced. The writer has nothing to object to this proposal if the general body of rate-payers are not made to bear any part of the expenses of boiler inspections. But, as was urged by him in connection with the Fire-brigade Bill, Mr. Woodroffe will probably contend in the Bengal Legislative Council that they should be made to bear a part of these expenses, inasmuch as they are interested in the safe condition of boilers.

57. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 5th April, says that, besides the low rate of exchange, the enormous military expenditure of Government is one of the principal causes of its financial difficulty. It would seem as if the English conquered India simply for the benefit of their military officers. There is not at present the slightest chance of a war taking place in the near future, yet, in utter disregard of the prevailing scarcity and the distress of the people, Government keeps up the military expenditure to its highest limit. The Viceroy in his speech on the Budget even hinted that it might be necessary to impose some new tax in view of the present financial crisis. If this is done, the people will be literally crushed under the burden of taxation.

58. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 6th April, cannot support the proposal made by the Hon'ble Chentsal Rao that the surplus registration revenue should be devoted to increasing the number of registration offices in the country. The writer has little faith in the efficacy of registration as a remedy for unnecessary litigation, or as a safeguard against fraud and deception. Who will deny that since the introduction of the registration system, litigation, fraud and deception have rather increased than decreased in the country?

The writer is quite at one with the Hon'ble Member in thinking that Government should appropriate no part of the registration revenue to its own use, but should devote the balance of that revenue, after meeting all costs of the Registration Department, to improving the prospects of the registration officers. True improvement of the Registration Department will consist in this, and not in increasing the number of registration offices in the country.

The writer does not wonder that, trained up as he is in the European system of political economy, the Hon'ble Member, though a native of India should advise the Government to abolish the export duty on rice. It seems that he has not the sagacity to perceive that it is the export of food-grains which is the cause of the frequent famines with which this country has of late years been visited. Indeed, he must be an extremely dull-witted man who would from the analogy of America argue that India would be as rich as America, if only she were allowed a free export trade like that country. It requires no great intelligence to see the difference in the economic condition of the two countries, inasmuch as America is in area six times as large as India, while her population is even less than one-fourth of that of the latter, and the soil of America is yet virgin soil, while that of India has been continuously under the plough for no one knows how long. Will the Hon'ble Chentsal Rao, who wants to be known as a friend of his country, still advise the abolition of the duty on the export trade of rice?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 5th, 1893.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 5th, 1893.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 6th, 1893.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 29th, 1893.

59. The *Sahachar*, of the 29th March, has the following:—

A proposal for the amendment
of the Penal Code.

Dissatisfied with Mr. Justice Prinsep's decision in the Chartered Bank case, the European mercantile community of Calcutta addressed a letter to Government, praying for an amendment of the law applicable to such cases. Thereupon the Lieutenant-Governor referred the matter to some of its officers, among whom Mr. Wilkins, the Officiating District Judge of the 24-Parganas, was one. Their opinion has since been received and the writer approves of it on the whole. He, however, strongly objects to Mr. Wilkins' proposal that whenever any error is discovered in the accounts, the man who prepared them should be punished. This is a very dangerous proposal, and proves the convicting tendency of the Indian Judges. Its acceptance by Government would make many Collectors and Deputy Collectors liable to punishment. Mistakes in accounts are often due to the foolishness or the indolence of the accountant, and not necessarily to his desire to cheat his employer. This being the case, it will be cruel to inflict punishment in cases where no criminal intention is present. The law ought, in short, to make a distinction between indolence and incapacity on the one hand, and a desire to cheat on the other. To inflict heavy punishments is now the order of the day, and it is the teaching of history that weak rulers have ever looked upon heavy punishments as a sort of Holloway's pills for all political and social diseases. The criminal law of a country ought to be such that its people can sympathise with it, and heartily co-operate with the police and the Magistracy in carrying it out. Where this is not the case, where the laws are unnecessarily rigorous, the people lose all sympathy with them. This was the case in England when her laws were of that character. The English people were then very unwilling to come forward as witnesses, and even Judges like Mansfield were obliged to find out flaws in the evidence, with the object of saving people from the gallows. In the same way, the criminal law of India being of a rigorous character, the people have not much sympathy with it. Sir Phillip Hutchins accordingly proposes in his Habitual Offenders' Bill that when an offence is committed in a village and no clue can be had regarding the person who committed it, an extra police force should be quartered in the village, and its expenses levied from the villagers. This is a most dangerous proposal, and its adoption will lead to the manufacture of false evidence. It is therefore hoped that the Government of India will not give its consent to it. The acquittals of the defendants in the Chartered Bank case, and in the case of Messrs. Jardine Skinner and Company, have caused public dissatisfaction, and the law applicable to the subject ought to be amended. But let not the authorities do anything hastily in the matter.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 30th 1893,

The cooly law.

60. The *Hitavadi*, of the 30th March, makes the following remarks:—

As was apprehended by the writer, the Cooly Bill has been passed into law and the fate of the coolies sealed. It is not easy to see why the Bill has been passed with so much haste. Lord Ladsdowne is a liberal and kind-hearted man, and it is a matter of deep regret that his name will be for ever associated with this miserable slave law. Let not the people despair at the passing of the Bill; let them go on agitating until Government comes to look on the helpless cooly with a kindly eye.

SAMAY,
Mar. 30th, 1893.

The reconstitution of the
Legislative Councils.

61. The *Samay*, of the 30th March, says that the Indian Councils Act has proved a disappointment; for the Councils as reconstituted under that Act have remained much as they were before—Legislative Councils only in name. The Bengal Council will henceforward consist of 13 official and 7 non-official members. It is clear from this arrangement that the non-official members will be out-voted on every question affecting the interests of the public. If the rules for the appointment of the members, which have been framed under the Act, had been previously circulated for public criticism, they would have been of a different character altogether. But unfortunately for the people of this country, the Government of India is full of self importance and considers it derogatory to its dignity to consult public opinion in regard to its legislative measures. Again, under the rules, the members elected by the Municipalities and the District Boards must

be men residing within the jurisdiction of those Municipalities and Boards. This restriction does not apply to the case of the members to be elected by the Calcutta Municipality and the Senate of the Calcutta University, though in their case it would have produced no harm. In the case of the mufassal Municipalities and the District Boards, however, the restriction will be productive of great inconvenience. In the mufassal the more distinguished pleaders are the only persons that are fit to be returned to the Council, but as they cannot sacrifice their practice and reside in Calcutta for six months in the year, in the mufassal districts members will have to be selected from other classes. And as the people of Calcutta and neighbouring places cannot, in consequence of the above rule, offer themselves for election by those bodies, they will necessarily have to be represented by sons of resident rich men with indifferent education. Thus, the consequence of the restriction will be to increase the number of *khayerkha* members in the Council. If, again, for reasons noted above, good men cannot be had to represent those bodies, or men representing them cannot devote the whole of their time to the legislative work, it will furnish Government with a pretext for saying that the country is not yet ripe for even small measures of reform. Thus the object of the new law will not be fulfilled.

62. The *Banganivasi*, of the 31st March, says that there was no necessity for passing the Inland Emigration Act Amendment Bill with such hurry. The questions raised

The Inland Emigration Act Amendment Bill.

BANGANIVASI,
Mar. 31st, 1893.

in the Council in connection with cooly emigration should have been completely threshed out. The Council should have, for instance, thoroughly considered the following points:—(1) Whether the continuance of the contract system was at all necessary; (2) if so, what should be the term of cooly contracts; and (3) whether it was necessary to make some arrangement for thoroughly explaining to the coolies the law relating to such contracts.

The hurry with which the Bill was passed may be a proof of Government's activity, but not of its wisdom.

The Bill as passed will certainly reduce the hardships of the coolies, but the question is, why should not these men be enabled by law to enjoy all the rights and privileges of free citizens under British rule?

The writer has lately received a communication from Midnapore, in which the fraudulent practices of the *arkatis* are bitterly complained of, and the remark is made that unless these practices are checked, a good many thriving and populous villages in that district will be left without any inhabitants in the course of a few years.

63. The same paper says that at the suggestion of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Government of India is about to amend the section of the Penal Code relating to embezzlement and criminal breach of trust, so as

A proposed amendment of the Penal Code.

to make it impossible for the accused, in cases like those lately instituted by the Chartered Bank and the Bombay Life Insurance Company, to escape conviction. The writer has no objection to the proposed amendment, but he would ask that in amending the Penal Code the legislature should first recognise the necessity of making such provisions in that Code as will make it impossible for European soldiers like O'Hara to escape punishment after murdering a native. It is only after such provisions have been made that an amendment of the Code may be properly undertaken for the purpose of preventing banians and head clerks guilty of embezzlement from escaping with impunity.

BANGANIVASI.

64. The *Sanjivani*, of the 1st April, has the following in an article headed "Reconstitution of the Legislative Councils—another result of agitation":—

The reconstitution of the Bengal Council.

SANJIVANI,
April 1st, 1893.

From what fell from His Honour in the course of his speech on the rules for the reconstitution of the Bengal Council, it would seem that the Lieutenant-Governor is not willing to recognise any association or body of merchants other than the Bengal Chamber of Commerce the right of to have anything to do with the return of a member to that Council. This view, if it is really held by His Honour, should be stoutly protested against. The investments of the native merchants are much larger than those of European merchants in this country, and yet they have not been allowed any voice in the election of the merchants' representative in the local Legislative Council. It is idle

to expect justice from Sir Charles Elliott in this matter. A representation ought therefore to be immediately made to the Government of India protesting against His Honour's decision.

Voting by ballot should be introduced in the elections to be made by the Calcutta Municipality and by the University, in order to protect weak-minded electors from the pressure of private influence.

It is after years of persistent agitation and the expenditure of lakhs of rupees on congresses and conferences that the elective principle has been partially introduced into the constitution of the Legislative Councils of this country. It therefore behoves the people to be very careful in the exercise of their new by acquired privilege, and they should elect really able men to be their representatives in those Councils.

SANJIVANI,
April 1st, 1893.

Representation of the Calcutta University in the Bengal Council.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 1st, 1893.

65. The same paper supports the candidature of Mr. A. M. Bose for a membership of the Bengal Council on behalf of the Calcutta University, and opposes that of Rai Rajkumar Sarbadhikari, Bahadur, for the same.

66. Referring to the passing of the Cooly Emigration Act, the *Bankura Darpan*, of the 1st April, remarks that it does not seem to be the desire of Providence that the position of the coolies should be improved. A large number of coolies is recruited every year in Chota Nagpur. The Commissioner of Chota Nagpur therefore recommended a thorough amendment of the Cooly Act. But his recommendation has not been acted upon. What can be sadder than that slavery should exist under British rule?

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 2nd, 1893.

Rules for the appointment of members to the Bengal Council.

67. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 2nd April, has the following:—

Under the new rules for the appointment of members to the Bengal Council, four members will be taken from nine divisions, and nothing can be said against this arrangement. The Dacca Division's turn for electing members will come after two years, and this delay will be felt as a great inconvenience by the people of that division. It is therefore hoped that Government will this year nominate at least two members from that division. As Calcutta and the Presidency Division will this year elect members for the Council, there is no necessity of nominating members from those parts on this occasion. In the opinion of the writer, Raja Suryya Kanta Acharyya and Babu Kaliprasanna Ghosh are fit persons to be appointed members from the Dacca Division.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 3rd, 1893.

68. The *Dainik o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 3rd April, says that Bengal suffers most from Lord Mayo's decentralization scheme. Of the entire Indian revenue of 90 crores, Bengal contributes no less than 22 crores; but its annual allotment never exceeds 11 crores. Sir Ashley Eden and Sir Rivers Thompson often expressed their regret at this arrangement, which prevents the Bengal Government from doing many useful things. The discussion of the Bengal Government's budget this year in the Local Council was not satisfactory. But it is certain that the budget will be fully and satisfactorily discussed next time.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 1st, 1893.

69. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan*, of the 1st April, complains of the prevalence of distress and also of theft, dacoity and incendiarism at Raipur in the Bankura district.

BANGAVASI,
April 1st, 1893.

70. The *Bangavasi*, of the 1st April, has received reports of scarcity and distress from Ghundari and Kunduria, within the jurisdictions of the Kaliganj and the Asasuni thanas respectively, in the Khulna district.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BANGAVASI.

71. The *Bangavasi*, of the 1st April, says that cow-slaughter has been prohibited in Turkey. The prohibition has nothing to do with religion, but has proceeded from purely economic considerations. But whatever the reasons that may have led to the measure, there can be no question that it will produce beneficial results. It is a wonder that while the slaughter of

cows has been prohibited in a Mussulman country like Turkey, Government permits indiscriminate cow-slaughter in this country of the Hindus. What can be a greater misfortune to India than this?

72. The same paper says that it is their want of self-reliance and their dependence upon Government in every matter, that prevent the people of this country from improving their condition. What they want is that Government should supply them with food and clothing, with medicine and diet, with schools and colleges, and indeed with all the necessaries and comforts of life, and that they themselves should be permitted to live on, without being required to put forth any effort or bestir themselves in any matter. They will make no effort to improve their condition or even to remove the ills that beset their lives. For instance, if any public officer does any wrong, they will instantly beseech Government to punish the wrong-doer, but never make an effort to correct him themselves. Take, for instance, the case of the Deputy Magistrates. The complaint is now commonly made that the Deputy Magistrates dispense criminal justice with a very high hand. Now, most of these officers are natives, and the people might easily, if they chose, correct this evil tendency in the criminal judiciary. But they never make an attempt to do so. Let the mufassal newspapers and their correspondents take to systematically criticising the trials held by the Deputy Magistrates, and it will not be long before those officers come to perceive the necessity of mending their ways.

BANGAVASI,
April 1st, 1893.

NÁRÁYAN CHANDRA BHATTÁCHÁRYYA,

Officiating Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 8th April 1893.

